

fire chief. Marlan succeeded his father as fire chief in 1975 and has witnessed the growth of the fire department with the addition of two new fire stations and nine new fire trucks.

In Springfield Township, the name Hillman has become synonymous with firefighting. Chief Hillman's brother Elwyn, who is assistant fire chief, and his son-in-laws Charles Oaks and Earl Colloto are all members of the fire department. Chief Hillman is a hero not only for his lengthy and diligent service as a firefighter, but for the sacrifices he has made. He has missed only a few fire department meetings in 50 years, he has been called to the scene in the middle of the night, and he has missed a number of hot meals. Chief Hillman did this with a humble disposition and sense of duty. One of the legacies he has left is the sense of camaraderie which helped mold the firefighters into the close-knit group they remain today.

We owe Chief Hillman a debt of gratitude for the protection and stability he has provided for half a century. Without a doubt, our community is a much better place in which to live because of him. The people of Springfield Township have truly been blessed to have a man of Chief Hillman's caliber working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in wishing Chief Hillman and his lovely wife Norma much joy in their retirement.

OBSERVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 1974, Turkish troops landed on the island of Cyprus. The ensuing 23-year occupation has been a tragedy for the people of Cyprus and an embarrassment to the NATO alliance.

The United States has a special responsibility to play a role in the resolution of the Cyprus dilemma. Twenty-three years ago, as Washington was paralyzed by the Watergate scandal, the administration turned a blind eye to the crisis that was mounting in the Eastern Mediterranean. For many years prior to 1974, Washington had ignored Turkey's overt threats against Cyprus. In 1974, we watched with cold indifference as Turkish troops invaded the island. Our failure to avert the Cyprus conflict and to achieve a diplomatic solution to the standoff helped seal the fate of the island for the next 23 years. It is for this reason that the United States has a duty to help achieve peace on Cyprus.

I commend President Clinton and my colleagues here in the House for turning the spotlight on the tragedy of Cyprus. Recent United States diplomatic initiatives and the appointment of Richard Holbrooke as Special Emissary for Cyprus give new hope that an old struggle may be resolved. The United Nations-sponsored talks between President Clerides and Mr. Denktash in New York City are another promising step. Congress must continue to support the President and the international community in this long-overdue effort.

We may not be able to bring back the Greek-Cypriots who perished and disappeared at the hands of Turkish troops. But we can take occasions such as this to remember those who have suffered, and we can continue to search for answers to the cases of missing persons. And we can honor them by working to help today's Cypriots realize their dreams of a free, unified Cyprus. In doing so, we may be able to secure lasting peace and economic security for a people who are so richly deserving of it.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CHARLES BROOKS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share in the thanks and praise being bestowed on Rev. Charles Brooks for his invaluable service to St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and the community of San Bernardino. His 8-year dedication to this congregation as pastor will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. Since 1959, Reverend Brooks has undeniably touched the lives of hundreds with his positive and effective leadership.

The many awards and honors that have been bestowed on Reverend Brooks, including Life Time Achievement Awards for his dedication to civic affairs in the black community and for his diligent commitment to community service, do not begin to capsuleize the contribution he has made to San Bernardino and communities abroad. Reverend Brooks is not only recognized for his contributions to a number of congregations, but in his capacity as teacher, administrator, and civic leader. His groundbreaking career, as the first black elected as president of the San Bernardino Clergy Association and the La Jolla Ministerial Association, will continue to serve as a leading example of excellence.

It is my honor to offer my congratulations and appreciation to such an outstanding pastor and leader at the arrival of his retirement. As he has given so greatly to San Bernardino and various other communities, it is my pleasure to wish him and his family the best in the years to come.

LINLITHGO REFORMED CHURCH OF LIVINGSTON, NY, CELEBRATES ITS 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, when French traveler Alexis de Tocqueville visited these shores in 1830 he noted something very special about the then-young United States. He noticed the importance of religion to Americans.

And he was right, Mr. Speaker. This is a religious Nation. And from the beginning, churches were among the first structures built, and they remain the center of American community life. I'd like to speak about a very special one today.

The Linlithgo Reformed Church of Livingston, NY, is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year, making it older than the Nation itself.

Mr. Speaker, this church can trace its existence to a July 4, 1722, organizational meeting. Robert Livingston, Jacob Vosburgh, and Cornelis Martensen were appointed elders, and Tobias Ten Broeck, Robert Van Deusen, and Willem Hallenbeck were named deacons.

Records are unclear, but we think the church building was completed on or about September 22, 1722. One interesting historical fact emerges from the records. The first pastor to be paid in money instead of corn or wheat was Jeremiah Romeyn in 1788.

Three years later, members of the consistory of the church voted to make it a corporate body. Finally, in 1813, the consistory voted to plan a new church, which was dedicated in 1815. The new church, still in operation today, was completed in 1855.

A reported low state of piety resulted in a January 3, 1840, day of fasting and prayer.

The 20th century history of the church resembled that of many others during this time. By 1921, the practice of renting pews was discontinued. During the World War II, many of the men of the congregation answered the call to service, as did many of the women on the home front.

Since then, the church has continued to grow and prosper, serving the spiritual and even the social needs of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and other Members to join me in expressing our best wishes to a very special institution, the Linlithgo Reformed Church of Livingston, NY, as it celebrates its 275th year of service to the community.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORMON PIONEERS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago today, Brigham Young and the first Mormon pioneers descended into the Salt Lake Valley. They found a desolate, hostile land, covered by sagebrush and a vast lake of water with a salinity seven times greater than the ocean. Naysayer Jim Bridger offered \$1,000 for the first bushel of corn raised in the Salt Lake Valley. But these stout-hearted souls were undaunted. Making "the desert blossom as the rose" was certainly not the first or greatest challenge these pioneers had faced.

The Mormon pioneers were no strangers to adversity. Their trek had begun long before their handcarts and wagons were nailed together in Nebraska. From the time the Church was organized in 1830, they had faced persecution and were driven out of Kirtland, OH; they had fled Independence, MO, in the face of an exterminator order; and they had been driven by angry mobs from the fair city of Nauvoo, IL, which they had built up out of the swamps of the Mississippi River. At last, their only choice was to move west, to a land no one else wanted, where they could worship God after the manner they desired.

Along the trail, they faced numerous hardships. While over 70,000 people made the